

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12379

CALCUTTA 2041 FOLLOWS. SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 20 AUG 76.
BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 2041

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJ: DETENTION OF ANADI NAIK

REF: STATE 189510

1. CONSULAR OFFICER O'NEILL AND I RECEIVED LETTERS TODAY
AUGUST 20 FROM MRS. PAULA NAIK, WIFE OF ANADI NAIK WHO HAS
BEEN DETAINED IN ORISSA UNDER MISA SINCE SHORTLY AFTER
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN JUNE 1975. MRS. NAIK SAYS SHE
IS PURCHASING AN AIRPLANE TICKET FOR HER HUSBAND AND PLANS
TO "APPROACH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT SAYING ANADI'S VISA AND
TICKET ARE IN ORDER." TO THIS END SHE ASKS FOR CONSULATE
GENERAL'S ASSURANCE THAT A VISA WILL BE ISSUED TO HER
HUSBAND PROMPTLY ON HIS RELEASE. MRS. NAIK HOPES THAT THIS
WILL PERSUADE THE GOI TO RELEASE HER HUSBAND. SHE DOES NOT
SAY WHERE OR HOW SHE INTENDS TO APPROACH THE GOI. MRS.
NAIK CITES SENATOR SHWEIKER'S INTEREST IN HER HUSBAND'S
CASE.

2. MRS. NAIK ALSO ASKS THAT USG OFFICIALS TAKE UP HER
HUSBAND'S CASE WITH THE GOI. FOLLOWING IS QUOTE OF PARA-
GRAPH ON THIS SUBJECT FROM MRS. NAIK'S LETTER TO ME: "PLEASE
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RENEW YOUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MY HUSBAND'S RELEASE. I FEEL

THAT SERIOUS DISCUSSION BETWEEN US OFFICIALS, EVEN INFORMALLY, AND INDIAN OFFICIALS WOULD PROBABLY ACHIEVE MY HUSBAND'S RELEASE. I WOULD SUGGEST BYPASSING LOCAL POLITICS AND TALKING AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL. AT ANY RATE, AT THE STATE LEVEL, THE CHIEF MINISTER IS THE ONLY PERSON WITH THE POWER TO DECIDE. MR. MATHEWS, WHOM YOU HAD PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN, IS NOW IN FORCED EARLY RETIREMENT DUE TO HIS LACK OF SYMPATHY FOR THE CHIEF MINISTER. MY HUSBAND IS STILL WILLING TO ACCEPT RELEASE ON THE CONDITION THAT HE RETURN TO THE US." MRS. NAIK SAYS THAT SINCE END OF JUNE HER HUSBAND HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO SEND AND RECEIVE MAIL AND THAT HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH.

3. WE ARE SENDING REPLY TO MRS. NAIK OVER O'NEILL'S SIGNATURE REGARDING A VISA FOR HER HUSBAND, ASSURING HER THAT HE WILL BE ISSUED A VISA AS SOON AS HE PRESENTS APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION AND TAKES THE REQUIRED PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. REGARDING MRS. NAIK'S REQUEST FOR USG INTERVENTION ON HER HUSBAND'S BEHALF, I WOULD PROPOSE TO REPLY SEPARATELY WITH LANGUAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT WHILE MR. NAIK IS NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND THEREFORE OUR ABILITY TO ACT ON HIS CASE IS LIMITED, WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW IT CLOSELY AND DO WHATEVER MAY BE APPROPRIATE . PLEASE ADVISE.

4. I THINK MRS. NAIK IS QUITE RIGHT IN SAYING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO USE IN TAKING UP HER HUSBAND'S CASE WITH ANYONE IN ORISSA OTHER THAN CHIEF MINISTER SATPATHY, BUT I DON'T THINK THERE WOULD BE ANYTHING TO BE GAINED BY RAISING IT WITH HER. MORE LIKELY JUST THE OPPOSITE, SINCE AS EMBASSY

KNOWS MRS. SATPATHY IS SUSPICIOUS OF THE USG AND HAS KEPT THE CONSULATE GENERAL AT GOOD ARMS LENGTH. THE PLACE TO PURSUE IT WOULD BE IN NEW DELHI OR POSSIBLY IN WASHINGTON WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL, IF DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY THINK THERE IS A CHANCE THAT TALKS THERE MIGHT BE PRODUCTIVE OR AT LEAST NOT HARMFUL.
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